

## Remarks

The various parts of the Office Action (and other matters, if any) are discussed below under appropriate headings.

### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

The allowance of claims 12, 13, and 17 is noted with appreciation. Similarly, the indication that claims 6 and 7 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims is noted with appreciation. Claim 6 has been amended to independent form. Claim 7 depends from claim 6. Accordingly, claims 6 and 7 are now believed to be in condition for allowance.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

Claims 1, 3-5, 8-11, and 14-16 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,297,157 to Van Vliet ("Van Vliet") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,716,478 to Booth et al. ("Booth") and/or U.S. Patent No. 3,629,039 to Frick ("Frick"). Withdrawal of the rejection is requested for at least the following reasons.

As amended, independent claims 1, 8, and 10 recite a method comprising, *inter alia*, a transferring step of transferring an elastic piece to a web in a flow direction of the web, wherein the steps are performed as part of a lateral flow process. A lateral flow process is described in the background of invention section of the application.

None of the references relied upon by the Examiner appear to disclose a lateral flow process. Accordingly, claims 1, 3-5, 8-11, and 14-16 are believed to be allowable, and withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

**Conclusion**

In view of the foregoing, request is made for timely issuance of a notice of allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

RENNER, OTTO, BOISSELLE & SKLAR, LLP

By: /Daniel R. Ling/  
Daniel R. Ling; Reg No. 53,223  
Mark D. Saralino; Reg. No. 34,243

1621 Euclid Avenue  
Nineteenth Floor  
Cleveland, Ohio 44115  
(216) 621-1113  
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